

METHOD AND CIRCUIT CONFIGURATION FOR MIXING A DIGITAL SIGNAL WITH AN ANALOGUE SIGNAL

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Field of the Invention

[0001] The present invention relates to a method as well as a circuit configuration for mixing a digital signal with an analogue signal.

Related Background Art

[0002] For mixing a digital signal with an analogue signal it is known to convert the digital signal into an analogue voltage signal, which is received by the mixer after being filtered. Since mixers are usually provided with current inputs, prior conversion of the filtered output signal from the digital to analogue converter into a current signal is necessary. A known device of this kind is represented in Fig. 3. In this case, a digital signal 4 is received by a digital to analogue converter 1. The digital to analogue converter 1 supplies a current signal 5, which is received by a resistance 11, so that a voltage signal, which is filtered in a filter 2, preferably a low-pass filter, lies on the resistance 11. The filter 2 supplies a voltage signal as output signal 6, which is converted in a voltage to current transformer 9 into a corresponding current signal 10, which is received by the mixer 3. Prior conversion into the current signal 10 is necessary, since the mixer 3 has a current input. The mixer 3 further receives a second signal 7, with which the digital signal 4 is to be finally mixed, and at its output supplies a mixing signal 8.

[0003] A disadvantage with the circuit configuration described is that the current signal 5 at the output of the analogue to digital converter 1 leads at the resistance 11 to voltage increase, which reacts on the output of the analogue to digital converter 1 and in this way modulates the current signal 5 at the output of the digital to analogue converter 1, whereby its output signal is disturbed. A further source of disturbance is caused by the necessary voltage to current transformer 9, which introduces further disturbances and in particular non-linearities. Furthermore, the components first necessary at the output of the digital to analogue converter 1 for current to voltage conversion and finally before the mixer 3 for voltage to current conversion means additional complexity, which has a negative effect on development, cost and production.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0004] It is an object of the present invention to create a circuit configuration or a method for mixing a first, digital signal with a second signal, whereby low cost and little disturbance and signal distortion can be ensured.

[0005] The object according to the invention is achieved by a method with the features of Claim 1 or a circuit configuration with the features of Claim 7. The sub-claims in each case define preferred and advantageous embodiments of the present invention.

[0006] The entire circuit according to the invention is operated in the current domain or within the current area, for which purpose a digital to analogue converter with current output is used, which supplies a current input of a mixer without any current to voltage conversion.

[0007] Due to the few components, little noise, few distortions and low circuitry cost are achieved. The reason for this is that mixers with current input are normally used anyway and the digital to analogue converter deployed with systems of this kind mostly possesses a current output. A digital to analogue converter of this kind can have switched internal power sources, for example.

[0008] Preferably, the current output of the digital to analogue converter is terminated with a diode or generally with a non ohmic element, so that varying the current signal at the output of the digital to analogue converter results in no or only minor voltage fluctuation at the output of the digital to analogue converter. A component of this kind for terminating the current output of the digital to analogue

converter, as in particular a diode, can preferably be arranged in the mixer, whereby advantageously a component existing in the mixer anyway is used for this.

[0009] In an advantageous refinement, a filter is inserted between the digital to analogue converter and the mixer, which however operates in the current domain or within the current area. The filter can be both passive and active. A passive filter in particular can be an LC filter.

[0010] If an active filter is used, trans-conductance amplifiers can be used, for example, in place of the operation amplifiers as active elements, which are normally used in the case of filters in the voltage area.

[0011] The filter used preferably has a low-pass characteristic, in order to eliminate higher-frequency fractions caused by digital to analogue conversion, but can also have any transmission characteristic. It is also conceivable to design the filter as a band-pass filter.

[0012] The solution according to the invention is advantageously used for wireless data communication, whereby the digital signal preferably represents an information signal to be transmitted and the second signal the carrier signal. Advantageously, the solution according to the invention finds application in mobile telecommunications, whereby the digital signal has digitally coded speech signals.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0013] The invention is described below in detail on the basis of two preferred embodiments with reference to the appended drawings.

[0014] Fig. 1 shows the schematic structure of a circuit configuration for mixing a digital signal with a second signal in accordance with a first embodiment of the present invention;

[0015] Fig. 2 shows the schematic structure of a circuit configuration for mixing a digital signal with a second signal in accordance with a second embodiment of the present invention; and

[0016] Fig. 3 shows the schematic structure of a known circuit configuration for mixing a digital signal with an analogue signal.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

[0017] The circuit configuration for mixing a digital signal 4 with a second signal 7, represented in Fig. 1, comprises a digital to analogue converter 1, which on the input side receives the digital signal 4 and on the output side supplies a current signal 5. The digital to analogue converter 1 possesses a current output, so that the output signal 5 is a current signal.

[0018] The current signal 5 is supplied to a filter 2, which is designed as a low-pass filter and operates within the current area. The filter 2 can be both passive and active and on the output side supplies a second current signal 6, which is received by a mixer 3.

[0019] The mixer 3 possesses two current inputs, one of which receives the second current signal 6 at the output of the filter 2 and the other one receives the second signal 7. The second signal 7 is also a current signal.

[0020] The mixer 3 on the output side supplies a mixing signal 8, which corresponds to the mixing result of the second signal 7 and the second current signal 6 derived from the digital signal 4.

[0021] The circuit configuration represented in Fig. 1 serves the wireless transmission of telecommunication data, in particular speech signals. For this purpose, the digital signal 4 contains the data or speech signals to be transmitted and the second signal 7 represents the carrier signal used for the radio transmission. An application of this kind in particular is mobile telecommunications, whereby the circuit configuration represented in Fig. 1 can be used in both a user terminal and a base station.

[0022] In Fig. 2, a circuit configuration is represented in accordance with a second embodiment of the present invention, whereby in this case filtering of the output signal 5 from the digital to analogue converter 1 is dispensed with. Accordingly, the structure of the circuit configuration is simplified, since in this case the output signal 5 from the digital to analogue converter 1 is supplied directly to the mixer 3. Except for the filter 2 therefore the circuit configuration represented in Fig. 2 corresponds to that represented in Fig. 1. Also, the circuit configuration represented in Fig. 2 preferably serves the purpose of wireless signal transmission in particular of speech signals. With regard to the intended use and the kind of the signals the same as said above in connection with the

circuit configuration represented in Fig. 1 applies for the circuit configuration according to the second embodiment.

[0023] With the aid of the present invention therefore a decrease of the circuitry cost and in particular improvement of the signal quality can be achieved, since compared with the prior art circuit configuration represented in Fig. 3 components for current to voltage conversion or voltage to current conversion can be dispensed with and a digital to analogue converter 1 with current output can be driven in a more advantageous mode of operation due to the dispensable subsequent current to voltage conversion.